

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
AIR QUALITY DIVISION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AIR QUALITY ISSUES

Pursuant to Section 110 of the federal Clean Air Act, the Director of the Department of Health is seeking comments on revisions to the District's State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Washington DC-MD-VA nonattainment area. Included in this public notice are proposed rules that will amend 20 DCMR by setting emission standards for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). These amendments are necessary to meet the requirements of a severe area SIP following the January 24, 2003 reclassification of Metropolitan Washington from serious to severe nonattainment of the ozone standard.

In addition to the Washington Times notice of June 7, 2003, This Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on July 9, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Old City Council Chambers off the Lobby at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Specifically, this hearing provides interested parties an opportunity to comment on: 1) a proposed revision to the District's SIP for the Washington, DC-MD-VA nonattainment area; 2) proposed amendments to Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (20 DCMR) to change the offset ratios for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in §204.4 from one and two tenths (1.2) to one and three tenths (1.3); 3) proposed amendments to Chapter 7 to reduce the VOC major source threshold from 50 tons per year to 25 tons per year in §715.3 & §715.4(b) in lines 2 & 3; 4) proposed amendments to Chapter 8 to reduce the major source threshold for NO_x from 50 tons per year to 25 tons per year in §805.1(a)(3), (a)(4) §805.1(b), §805.1(c)(1) in lines 4 & 6, §805.6 & §805.7; 5) proposed amendments to Chapters 6 and 8 to correct typos in §600.1 & 805.5 to replace "ppm" with "lb"; 6) draft proposed sections in Chapter 7: §718 Mobile Equipment Repair & Refinishing; §719 Consumer Products; §720 Portable Fuel Container; §721 Solvent Cleaning & §722 Architectural & Industrial Maintenance Coating; and 7) a draft Title V permit for the Lane Construction Asphalt Plant at 60 P Street, SE. These amendments and new rules are necessary to satisfy the severe nonattainment area requirements of the Clean Air Act and to further reduce VOC emissions in the District.

The proposed plan, "State Implementation Plan (SIP) Demonstrating Rate of Progress for 2002 and 2005, Revision of 1990 Baseline Emissions, and Severe Area Attainment for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area," consists of two Rate of Progress demonstrations for the period 1999-2002 and 2002-2005, a revised baseline emissions inventory for 1990, and an attainment demonstration for 2005. In addition, the plan includes measures to meet Clean Air Act requirements for severe nonattainment areas and to meet additional EPA requirements for the Washington region including a contingency plan for 1999 rate of progress, contingency plans for the 2002 and 2005 rates of progress, an analysis of Reasonably Available Control Measures, and Transportation Control Measures.

The Severe Area Attainment Plan is intended to show the progress being made to improve air quality in the Washington nonattainment area and the efforts underway to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to reach the federal health standard for ground-level ozone by 2005. The plan has been prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) to comply with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and with EPA requirements for the Washington region as stated in EPA's reclassification notice of the Washington region (January 2003) and in EPA's conditional approval of the Metropolitan Washington region's State Implementation Plan (April 2003). On May 28, 2003, MWAQC approved the proposed plan for release for public review and comment. However, the Department of Health is concerned about and requesting comments on the equity of the control and contingency measures identified in the plan. Also, MWAQC and the air agencies are specifically requesting comments on the adequacy of the contingency measures included in Chapter 12 and Appendix I. These measures are being considered as emission reduction contingencies; however, MWAQC and the air agencies may decide not to include them in this SIP revision depending on public comment, and a review by and comment from the EPA as to their adequacy. If measures are not acceptable to EPA at this time, appropriate modifications will be made to correct identified deficiencies. The final measures will be submitted to EPA by the March 1, 2004 deadline as required in the nonattainment reclassification notice for the area.

Copies of the proposed SIP revisions, the draft proposed amendments to 20 DCMR, the draft new rules and the draft Title V permit are available for public review during normal business hours at the offices of the Environmental Health Administration (EHA), 51 N Street, NE, Room 6051, Washington, D.C. 20002, and at the following D.C. Public Library branches: 901 G Street, NW; Connecticut Avenue & McKinley Street, NW; 37th Street & Alabama Avenue, SE; Wisconsin Avenue & R Street, NW; 18th Street & Rhode Island Avenue, NE. The information is available on the DC Government website at <http://airquality.dc.gov> and the plan is also available on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) website at <http://www.mwcog.org/environment/air/>

Interested parties wishing to testify at this hearing should furnish in writing their names, addresses, telephone numbers and affiliation, if any to Mr. Abraham Hagos at EHA by 4:00 p.m., July 7, 2003. No written comments will be accepted after July 9, 2003. For more information, call Mr. Hagos at 202-535-1354 or email him at abraham.hagos@dc.gov